

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9150

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 04873

DEPT PASS DOT FOR RAMUNDO

DEPT PASS NOAA FOR MARTINEAU

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. PRESS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, TGEN, EEWT, TECH, UR, US
SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF SPECIALIZED BILATERALS: TRANSPORT
(05.00) OCEANS (06.00)

1. SUMMARY - SCST OFFICIALS HAVE AGAIN EXPRESSED ANXIETY
OVER U.S. POSITION ON RENEWALS OF THE OCEANS AND TRANSPORT
BILATERALS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE IN JUNE 1978. THE EMBASSY
RESPONSE IS THAT THE U.S. IS CAREFULLY REVIEWING THE
BILATERALS FOR BALANCE OF BENEFITS. WE SUGGEST THE U.S.
CONTINUE TO DELAY ON THE RENEWALS PENDING DEVELOPMENTS ON
ISSUES OF MAJOR BILATERAL POLITICAL CONCERN. END SUMMARY.

2. SCICOUNS MET MARCH 14 WITH SCST USA DESK DIRECTOR
AYKAZYAN AND OCEANS BILATERAL SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
METAL'NIKOV FOR TOUR D'HORIZON OF BILATERAL SCIENCE ISSUES,
FOLLOWING AYKAZYAN'S U.S. VISIT. AYKAZYAN RELATED GLUMLY
DOT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WITH U.S. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
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RAMUNDO IN WHICH HE STATED RAMUNDO HAD (1) CONFIRMED
CANCELLATION OF THE MARINE TRANSPORT SECTION OF THE AGREE-
MENT AND RAISED POSSIBILITY OF CANCELLATION OF THE URBAN
SECTION OF THE TRANSPORT AGREEMENT AS WELL, AND (2) HAD
INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE VISITING THE SOVIET UNION LATER
THIS SPRING IN CONNECTION WITH TRANSPORTATION OF THE
FUTURE DELEGATION. AYKAZYAN REPEATED OLD LINE THAT SCST

CHAIRMAN ALEKSENKO WAS GREATLY UPSET BY U.S. CANCELLATION OF THE MARINE TRANSPORT SECTION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THAT THE SCST AND ALEKSENKO HAD TRIED VERY HARD TO ARRANGE A SATISFACTORY ICE TRANSITING VISIT. HE SAID THE SOVIETS ARE "EXAMINING THE LEGALITY" OF THE U.S. CANCELLATION, NOTING THAT THE SUBJECT OF MARINE TRANSPORT IS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN THE TEXT OF THE BILATERAL. HE ALSO STATED PLANS TO REVIEW WITH RAMUNDO IN MOSCOW THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ALL SECTIONS OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT COULD BE SALVAGED. SCICOUNS COMMENTED THAT QUESTION OF THE LEGALITY OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION SECTION APPEARS TO BE A QUIBBLE, NOTING THAT THE CURRENT AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN JUNE AND THAT THE U.S. HAD NO INTENTION OF PROCEEDING WITH HNY WORK UNDER THE MARINE TRANSPORT SECTION BETWEEN NOW AND THE EXPIRATION DATE. SCICOUNS QUERIED AYKAZYAN WHETHER THE SOVIETS DESIRE TO SALVAGE THE MARINE TRANSPORT SECTION PRESAGES ANY CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POSITION ON ACCESS TO NUCLEAR ICE BREAKERS. AYKAZYAN RESPONDED THAT THIS UNFORTUNATELY WAS A DEAD ISSUE, ADDING THAT THE U.S. WAS ALSO GUILTY OF CUTTING OFF TECHNOLOGY OF INTEREST TO THE SOVIETS. WHEN PRESSED FOR AN EXAMPLE, AYKAZYAN NOTED THAT THE U.S. HAD BRUSHED ASIDE A SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR JOINT CONSTRUCTION OF COMPUTERS. SCICOUNS REPLIED THAT ACCESS TO A SOVIET ICE BREAKER AND CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURE OF COMPUTERS ARE IN NO WAY ANALOGOUS.

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3. METAL'NIKOV EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN THAT HE HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM NOAA ON THE SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR THE OCEANS JCM OR HIS PRE-JCM CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, AND RECITED DIFFICULTIES IN RETAINING HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN TALLINN AND LENINGRAD FOR THE JCM. SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT THE OCEANS BILATERAL IS ALSO UNDERGOING THOROUGH REVIEW FOR BALANCE OF BENEFITS. ACCESS AND COLLATERAL ISSUES (METAL'NIKOV TOOK CAREFUL NOTE WHEN LOS GENEVA MEETING WAS BRIEFLY ALLUDED TO).

4. COMMENT - IN VIEW OF THE BILATERAL POLITICAL CLIMATE WE RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. CONTINUE DELAY ON SIGNALING OUR INTENTIONS REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENTS. IN PARTICULAR, WE SEE NO BENEFIT IN HAVING RAMUNDO REVIEW THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION ISSUE ONCE AGAIN, WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY TOLD US THEY HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR POSITION. WHILE WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT THE BILATERALS BY THEMSELVES PROVIDE LEVERAGE ON SOVIET ACTION REGARDING SUCH MAJOR ISSUES ON THE HORN, MIDDLE EAST OR HUMAN RIGHTS, IT IS NEVERTHELESS OBVIOUS THAT THE RENEWALS OF THESE TWO AGREEMENTS ARE OF MORE VALUE TO THEM THAN TO

THE U.S. AN INCREASINGLY TOUGH STANCE ON BALANCE OF
ISSUES, (SCICOUNS HAD UNDERLINED TO AYKAZYAN THAT U.S.
HAS YET TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO A WORKING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL
FACILITY UNDER THE TRANSPORT BILATERAL) PLUS OUR SILENCE
WITH REGARD TO RENEWALS OF THE BILATERALS WILL AT LEAST
GET ACROSS TO THE SOVIET OFFICIALS THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT
COMPARTMENTALIZE REACTIONS TO GROSS SOVIET MISBEHAVIOUR
IN THE COMING MONTHS. END COMMENT. TOON

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